

Lauralyn Lewis

2 Elm St., Old Lyme, CT 06371

February 28, 2014

Re: **S.B. No. 237** - An Act Prohibiting the Storage or Disposal of Fracking Waste in Connecticut

Today I ask all of you, the legislators on the Environment Committee, for the outright ban of fracking waste in the state of Connecticut. The spills of toxic fracking chemicals can contaminate groundwater and there is real concern of the radioactive component. Recently Representative Lonnie Reed of the Energy Committee stated that we should not benefit from the increase in gas available to us in Connecticut without sharing in some of the waste. Her statement concerns me greatly. There is currently no best practice for the waste. I feel it is vital that you vote in support of S.B. 237 as the safety of Connecticut should be your main concern. Additionally, you will be supporting the negatives associated with this energy beyond our borders if you do not take the necessary steps to ban this waste.

Every day there are examples of the downside from this energy source: the amount of water it takes for each fracking well while at the same time we have the real concern of drought in this country; contaminated drinking water and real health concerns for those living near fracking wells; methane leaks; the release of benzene, formaldehyde, and radium; and the earthquakes that occur when the fracking waste is put back into the drilled wells. To support this industry puts the environment as well as the health of citizens at risk. It would be extremely shortsighted to allow fracking waste to enter our state's borders.

The pressure on our state from the energy industry must be incredible. However, you have not only the power but the awesome responsibility to act on the state's behalf as well as the behalf of your constituents and take the stand to do the right thing now. Until we can prove that fracking waste does not have any risks associated with it, we must take a precautionary stand against the waste from entering our borders. We have the right to a healthy environment and yet daily we are subjected to the onslaught of toxins in our lives. While we may be saving money in the short term by using this form of energy, the long term costs should not be ignored. Far too many people are ignorant to the risks of hydraulic fracturing (fracking). Surely, if they could see beyond the attractive television ads and the cost of their gas heating, they too would be speaking out to ban this waste. It is time to stop playing politics with the health of human beings and the environment. Today you can take the stand to protect Connecticut from the potential risks of the fracking waste and I implore you to do so.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauralyn Lewis